

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on the first line after the title on page 1 of the application with the following paragraph:

Cross-Reference To Related Applications

This application is a continuation of United States patent application Serial No. 09/527,026, filed March 16, 2000, now abandoned, which claims benefit of U.S. provisional applications serial no. 60/179,486, filed February 1, 2000, and serial no. 60/152,340, filed September 7, 1999, the disclosures of which application(s) are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3, with the following replacement paragraph:

Some researchers have suggested that telomerase activity may be cell-cycle dependent. For instance, in 1996, Dionne reported the down-regulation of telomerase activity in telomerase-competent cells during quiescent periods (G phases) and hypothesized that telomerase activity may be cell-cycle dependent. ~~See <http://telomeres.virtualave.net/regulation.html>.~~ Similarly, Kruk et al. reported a higher level of telomerase in the early S phase when compared to other points in the cell cycle (Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. (1997) 233:717-722). However, other researchers have reported conflicting results,

and have alternatively suggested that telomerase activity correlates with growth rate, not cell cycle (Holt et al. (1996) Mol. Cell. Biol. 16(6):2932-2939; see also Website, id., referencing Holt, 1997, and Belair, 1997). Still others have proposed that telomerase activation is mediated by other cellular activation signals, as evidenced by the upregulation of telomerase in B cells in vitro in response to CD40 antibody/antigen receptor binding and exposure to interleukin-4 (Website, id., citing Weng, 1997; see also Hiyama et al. (1995) J. Immunol. 155(8):3711-3715). But despite the rising interest in telomerase and its purported role in the process of aging and cellular transformation, the regulation of telomerase activity remains poorly understood. See, e.g., Smaglik, "Turning to Telomerase: As Antisense Strategies Emerge, Basic Questions Persist," *The Scientist*, January 18, 1999, 13(2):8).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 6, with the following replacement paragraph:

The present invention stems from the discovery that nuclear transfer techniques may be used to extend the life span of senescent or near-senescent cells by activating endogenous (cellular) telomerase activity. This provides particular advantages over recently publicized approaches for resolving the telomere loss seen in nuclear-transfer generated animals, which focus on the exogenous expression of a cloned telomerase gene to resolve telomere shortening in cloned mammals. For instance, researchers at Geron Corporation and the Roslin

Institute have recently collaborated to combine Geron's cloned telomerase gene with nuclear transfer in order resolve telomere shortening in clones. See, e.g., ~~Business~~ Business Wire, May 26, 1999. This announcement preceded the May 27th Nature report by researchers at Roslin Institute that two other sheep (after Dolly) cloned by nuclear transfer also exhibit shorter telomeres than age-matched controls. Researchers at the University of Massachusetts involved in cloning cattle also believed that transfecting donor cells with an exogenous telomerase gene might be beneficial for the lifespan of cloned animals, despite the observation that nuclear transfer seemed to rejuvenate senescent donor cells. See <http://abcnews-go.com/sections/science/DailyNews/clones980522.html> (1998).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 13, with the following replacement paragraph:

For instance, Xu et al. demonstrated that re-expression of the retinoblastoma protein in tumor cells induces senescence and inhibits telomerase activity (Oncogene (1997) 15: 2589-2596). A recent report also suggests that a gene on chromosome 3 may be involved in transcriptional repression of hTERT, the catalytic subunit of telomerase. See <http://claim.springer.de/EncRef/CancerResearch/samples/0001.htm> - Several proteins have also been identified that interact directly with telomerase, such as p23/hsp90 (molecular chaperones) and TEP1 (telomerase associated protein 1). ~~Id.~~

Researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have purported cloned two additional human telomere-associated proteins (Tin 1 and Tin 2). Federal Technology Report, December 30, 1999, Partnership Digest, Technology Watch, p. 9. Thus, the regulatory mechanism identified by the present methods could operate by binding to or inhibiting the expression of a telomerase binding protein or a telomerase repressor, consequently increasing telomerase activity, but could also regulate telomerase activity by upregulating gene expression or enhancing protein stability.